



Corporations gave over \$50M to voting restriction backers

By BRIAN SLODYSKO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—When executives from Coca-Cola and Delta Air Lines spoke out against Georgia's new voting law as unduly restrictive last week, it seemed to signal a new activism springing from corporate America.

But if leaders of the nation's most prominent companies are going to reject lawmakers who support restrictive voting measures, they will have to abruptly reverse course.

State legislators across the country who have pushed for new voting restrictions, and also seized on former President Donald Trump's baseless claims of election fraud, have reaped more than \$50 million in corporate donations in recent

years, according to a new report by Public Citizen, a Washington-based government watchdog group.

Telecom giant AT&T was the most prolific, donating over \$800,000 since 2015 to authors of proposed restrictions, cosponsors of such measures, or those who voted in favor of the bills, the report found. Other top donors during the same period include Comcast, Philip Morris USA, United-Health Group, Walmart, Verizon, General Motors and Pfizer.

The money may not have been given with voting laws in mind, but it nonetheless helped cement Republican control in statehouses where many of the prohibitive measures are now moving forward.

Continued on next page



In this July 18, 2019, file photo, a sign is displayed at an AT&T retail store in Miami.

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Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., addresses the media at a COVID vaccination site at Kroger Field in Lexington, Ky., Monday, April 5, 2021.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

Whether companies continue to give to these lawmakers will test how far risk-averse corporate leaders are willing to go in their increasingly forceful criticism of the restrictive efforts, which voting rights groups

have excoriated as an attack on democracy.

"It really is corporate America, as a whole, that is funding these politicians," said Mike Tanglis, one of the authors of the report. "It seems many are trying to hide under a rock and hope that

this issue passes."

More than 120 companies detailed in the report previously said they would rethink their donations to members of Congress who, acting on the same falsehoods as the state lawmakers, objected to the certification of President Joe Biden's win following the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters.

The tension is most evident now in Georgia, where a far-reaching new voting law has drawn an intense national scrutiny, prompting the criticism from Delta and Coca-Cola. On Friday, MLB announced it would no longer host the 2021 All-Star Game in Atlanta.

Yet it's unclear whether this aggressive new posture will extend to corporate campaign donation practices. And early indicators show

there is risk.

Georgia's Republican-controlled House voted to strip Delta of a tax break worth tens of millions of dollars annually for their criticism of the new law, though the action was rendered moot after the GOP Senate failed to take it up before the legislative session adjourned. What is certain, though, is that withholding corporate donations to state-level candidates, like many companies did at the federal level, would have a far greater impact in statehouses.

"A contribution of \$5,000 to a U.S. senator who is raising \$30 million is a drop in a bucket. But in some of these state races, a few thousand dollars can buy a lot of ad time," said Tanglis. "If corporate America is going to say that (Trump's) lie is unacceptable on the federal level, what about on the state level?"

Public Citizen analyzed about 245 voting restriction bills proposed before March 1. They culled a list of sponsors and cosponsors, while also analyzing vote roll calls. Then they cross-referenced the data with state-level donation records dating back to 2015, which included money from company political action committees, as well as direct contributions from corporate treasuries.

Among their findings:

— Companies donated at least \$50 million to lawmakers who supported voting restrictions, including \$22 million in the 2020 campaign cycle.

— At least 81 Fortune 100 companies have given a combined total of \$7.7 million to supporters of the restrictions.

— Nearly half of all Fortune 500 companies donated a combined total of \$12.8 million to supporters of the restrictions.

— About three-quarters

of the companies that changed their donation policies after the U.S. Capitol attack have also given to lawmakers who supported voting rights restrictions. — More than 60 companies have given at least \$100,000 to lawmakers who supported the restrictions.

— Separately, industry groups and trade associations contributed an additional \$36 million to the lawmakers, \$16 million of which was given during the 2020 cycle.

In response, AT&T said "the right to vote is sacred" but declined to say whether the company would withhold donations to state lawmakers as they did for members of Congress who objected to Biden's win.

"We understand that election laws are complicated, not our company's expertise and ultimately the responsibility of elected officials. But, as a company, we have a responsibility to engage," AT&T CEO John Stankey said in a statement. Verizon CEO Hans Vestberg said in a statement, "We strongly oppose the passage of any legislation or the adoption of any measure that would make it harder" to vote. But he stopped short of pledging any specific action.

Comcast said in a statement that "efforts to limit or impede access to this vital constitutional right for any citizen are not consistent with our values." The company would not comment on whether it would evaluate its giving to lawmakers who support the measures. Altria, the parent company of Philip Morris USA, said in a statement that "every eligible voter should be able to exercise their right to vote" and pledged to monitor lawmakers' "alignment with our political contribution guiding principles when making future contribution decisions." □



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George Floyd death leads states to require cops to intervene

By ANDREW SELSKY

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — When a police officer knelt on the neck of George Floyd in Minneapolis, other officers at the scene didn't intervene, even while Floyd said he couldn't breathe and stopped moving.

That lack of action is leading a growing number of states to compel police to stop misconduct by a fellow officer.

Since Floyd's death, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Nevada, and New Jersey have passed laws requiring police to intervene when they see a fellow officer engaged in misconduct, said Katie Ryan of Campaign Zero, a group which encourages reforms to reduce police violence.

Previously, many laws were aimed at compelling police to only report misconduct. But activists say Floyd's death makes clear that alone is not enough.

"The one essential component is that, in real time, a fellow officer has to intervene when witnessing another officer of any rank using excessive force," Ryan said.

Oregon's Legislature also



In this image from video, witness Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo testifies as Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill presides Monday, April 5, 2021, in the trial of former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin at the Hennepin County Courthouse in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

passed a bill in a special session last year requiring intervention by an officer witnessing police misconduct. It also requires officers to report abuses to "a supervisor."

This year, lawmakers are tweaking the new law to strengthen how the complaints are handled. It is sponsored by Rep. Janelle Bynum, a Democrat who chairs the House subcommittee on equitable policing.

"For me, the original trig-

ger was the George Floyd case," said Bynum, who is Black and from a Portland suburb.

Portland was an epicenter of Black Lives Matter protests that erupted nationwide after Floyd's death. On the night of Sept. 5, a Black resident came to police officers to inform them their tear gas was seeping into his house, affecting his son and dog. One officer whacked the man on the head with his baton, causing a concussion.

Other officers told their colleague the man was an area homeowner, not a protester. Bynum says that shouldn't matter, that even if he was a protester, he shouldn't be attacked unprovoked.

"He wasn't doing anything. And so I never got really clear answers from the city about why that was OK," Bynum said.

Police said back then that the incident was being investigated, but a half-year later they remain mum on

the outcome or status.

"I have not been provided information to release about the incident," Lt. Greg Pashley, a police spokesman, said in an email. "Generally, the Professional Standards Division does not provide updates about internal investigations."

Bynum's new bill aims to address such cases. It requires complaints to be filed with a direct supervisor of the reporting officer, their chain of command or with the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, or DPSST, which licenses law enforcement officers across the state. The bill sets a three-month deadline for investigations to be completed.

Under the bill, if an investigation confirms misconduct occurred, the officer's unit must notify the DPSST, which would be tasked with establishing a database for reports of misconduct.

Rep. Ron Noble, a Republican who co-chairs Bynum's subcommittee and previously served as a police officer for 28 years, said at a hearing that the additional steps over last year's bill are needed. □

CDC inquiry sought on HIV outbreak in WV's largest county

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin on Monday submitted a congressional inquiry with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding an HIV outbreak in West Virginia's largest county.

The West Virginia Democrat asked for the inquiry on behalf of the Kanawha County Commission two months after a CDC official warned that the county's outbreak was "the most concerning in the United States."

Commission President Kent Carper said in a statement that the outbreak "is an important public health issue and is deserving of our full understanding."

In a letter to Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the CDC director, Manchin asked that the CDC review the commission's concerns and re-

ply by Friday.

In early February, Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, the CDC's chief of HIV prevention, gave a presentation at a meeting of a Kanawha County HIV task force.

"It is possible the current case count represents the tip of the iceberg," Daskalakis said. "There are likely many more undiagnosed cases in the community. We are concerned that transmission is ongoing and that the number of people with HIV will continue to increase unless urgent action is taken."

The commission's letter to Manchin asked whether the CDC has completed an official investigation into the county's HIV surge. The letter said the commission is concerned that the statements referring to the out-

break as the most concerning in the nation "are being made without factual and empirical evidence."

As recently as 2014, only 12.5% of HIV cases in West Virginia were the result of intravenous drug use. By 2019, 64.2% were, according to state health department data. The increase was due primarily to clusters in Kanawha and Cabell counties.

Kanawha County, which includes Charleston and has 178,000 residents, had two intravenous drug-related HIV cases in 2018. The number grew to 15 in 2019 and at least 35 last year, said Shannon McBee, a state epidemiologist.

By comparison, New York City, with a population of more than 8 million, recorded 36 HIV cases tied to in-

travenous drug use in 2019, according to the CDC. Counties in other states with populations similar to Kanawha had an average of less than one HIV diagnosis among people who inject drugs, Daskalakis said.

The surge, clustered primarily around the capital of Charleston and the city of Huntington, is being attributed at least in part to the cancellation in 2018 of a needle exchange program that offered clean syringes to injection drug users not able to quit the habit altogether.

Needle exchange programs are included in the CDC's recommendations for controlling disease outbreaks among intravenous drug users. Such programs exist in dozens of states, but

they are not without their critics, including in West Virginia, who say they don't do enough to prevent or stop drug abuse.

A proposed ordinance that would restrict local needle exchange programs was before the Charleston City Council on Monday night. And the state Legislature is considering a bill to regulate needle exchange providers.

The nonprofit organization Solutions Oriented Addiction Response provides addicts with clean needles in Charleston and group shares information about HIV testing with residents, including the homeless. SOAR co-founder Sarah Stone has said the state bill could shut down her group's needle exchange program. □

Utah dads to be required to pay half of pregnancy costs

By SOPHIA EPPOLITO
Associated Press/Report for America

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Biological fathers in Utah will be legally required to pay half of a woman's out-of-pocket pregnancy costs under a new law unique to the state that critics say doesn't do enough to adequately address maternal healthcare needs.

The bill's sponsor has presented the measure as an effort to decrease the burden of pregnancy on women and increase responsibility for men who have children. But some critics argue the new legislation won't help women who are most vulnerable and could make abusive situations even more dangerous for pregnant women.

Utah appears to be the first state to mandate prenatal child support, according to the state's Planned Parenthood association and the bill's sponsor. But a few states, including Wisconsin and New York, have provisions that can result in fathers being financially responsible for pre-birth expenses.

Gov. Spencer Cox, a Republican, recently signed the proposal, which received widespread support in the GOP-controlled Legislature.

Republican Rep. Brady Brammer said he decided to sponsor the measure because he had grown frustrated with the number of anti-abortion measures going through the Legislature and wanted to pursue legislation that would make it easier to bring life into the world.

"We want to help people and actually be pro-life in how we do it as opposed to anti-abortion," Brammer said. "One of the ways to help with that was to help



Utah Gov. Spencer Cox speaks during his monthly news conference on March 18, 2021, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

the burden of pregnancy be decreased."

The bill would apply to a pregnant woman's health insurance premiums and any pregnancy-related medical costs, Brammer said.

If the paternity of the child is disputed, fathers won't be required to pay until after paternity is established. The father also wouldn't be financially responsible for the cost of an abortion received without his consent unless it's necessary to prevent the death of the mother or if the pregnancy was the result of rape.

In Utah, mothers already have the option to seek support related to birth expenses through the courts but few do, said Liesa Stockdale, director of the state's Office of Recovery Services, which typically collects child support. She

said mothers will now have the option to also seek pregnancy-related payments through the legal system, but it's unclear how often they will pursue it.

"I don't know how often it will be used," Stockdale said. "That's yet to be seen how often parents will choose to pursue these costs. But certainly if they do, we're here to collect." The bill is not intended to lower the frequency of abortions, but Brammer said that could be a potential result.

Anti-abortion activists have lauded the bill, however, saying it will protect the lives of unborn children by supporting women through their pregnancy. Merrilee Boyack, chairman of the Abortion-Free Utah coalition, said she hopes this bill will decrease abortions in the state by lessening eco-

nomical pressures on new moms.

"Anything we can do to support women in these circumstances will help them be able to give birth to their babies, feel good about that choice and feel supported along the way," Boyack said.

The new legislation comes on top of a long list of restrictions Utah has placed on abortion. Last year, the state approved a measure that would make abortions illegal if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns the decades-old ruling that legalized it nationwide. The Utah measure would make it a felony to perform the procedure, except in cases involving rape, incest and serious threat to the life of a mother.

Other Republican-governed states have been considering an array of tough anti-abortion restrictions this year. Sweeping abortion bans have already been signed into law in South Carolina and Arkansas.

Democratic lawmakers and women's rights activists have questioned whether the new legislation on fathers helping to cover costs

will actually meet women's needs.

Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Katrina Barker said she supports giving women more financial support but said there are better ways to help women, like expanding Medicaid, access to contraception and providing paid parental leave.

Barker also said she doesn't believe this legislation will lead to fewer women having abortions because the costs of pregnancy are typically small compared with the costs of raising a child.

"In the grand scheme of things, having a child and raising them to adulthood is going to be a lot more money," Barker said.

The average cost of raising a child is \$233,610 – excluding the cost of college – for a middle-income family, according to a 2015 report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cost of an abortion can range from being free to up to \$1,000 depending on location and whether the mother has health insurance, according to Planned Parenthood.

Domestic abuse tends to escalate during pregnancy and seeking these costs could further increase stressors about financially supporting a baby, said Gabriella Archuleta, a public policy analyst with YWCA Utah, which provides services to domestic violence survivors. About 324,000 pregnant women are abused each year in the United States, according to data from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Archuleta also noted that this measure doesn't equitably address the high cost of navigating the legal system and will likely only serve women who are wealthier or have wealthy partners.

"On the surface of it, it sounds like a good idea," Archuleta said. "But what we're here to do is look at some of the nuances and how it impacts women, and I don't think those nuances were really explored to the extent that they should have been." □



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Putin signs law allowing him 2 more terms as Russia's leader

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday signed a law allowing him to potentially hold onto power until 2036, a move that formalizes constitutional changes endorsed in a vote last year. The July 1 constitutional vote included a provision that reset Putin's previous term limits, allowing him to run for president two more times. The change was rubber-stamped by the Kremlin-controlled legislature and the relevant law signed by Putin was posted Monday on an official portal of legal information. The 68-year-old Russian president, who has been in power for more than two decades — longer than any other Kremlin leader since Soviet dictator Josef Stalin — said he would decide later whether to run again in 2024 when his current six-year term ends. He has argued that resetting the term count was necessary to keep his lieutenants focused on their work instead of "darting their eyes in search for pos-

sible successors." The constitutional amendments also emphasized the primacy of Russian law over international norms, outlawed same-sex marriages and mentioned "a belief in God" as a core value. Nearly 78% of voters approved the constitutional amendments during the balloting that lasted for a week and concluded on July 1. Turnout was 68%. Following the vote, Russian lawmakers have methodically modified the national legislation, approving the relevant laws. The opposition criticized the constitutional vote, arguing that it was tarnished by widespread reports of pressure on voters and other irregularities, as well as a lack of transparency and hurdles hindering independent monitoring. In the months since the vote, Russia has imprisoned the country's most prominent opposition figure, Alexei Navalny. The 44-year-old Navalny was arrested in January upon his return from Germany, where he spent five



Russian President Vladimir Putin listens to General Director of the Russian Direct Investment Fund Krill Dmitriev at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Friday, April 2, 2021.

Associated Press

months recovering from a nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. Russian authorities have rejected the accusation. In February, Navalny was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison for violating the terms of his probation while convalescing in Germany. The sentence stems from a 2014 embezzlement conviction that Navalny has rejected as fabricated —

and which the European Court of Human Rights has ruled to be unlawful. His team says Navalny had lost a substantial amount of weight even before he started a hunger strike Wednesday to protest authorities' failure to provide proper treatment for his back and leg pains. Navalny complained about prison officials' refusal to give him the proper

medications and to allow his doctor to visit him. He also protested the hourly checks a guard makes on him at night, saying they amount to sleep deprivation. In an Instagram post Monday, Navalny said that three of 15 people in his room at the penal colony were diagnosed with tuberculosis. He noted that he had a strong cough and a fever of 38.1 Celsius (100.6 Fahrenheit). Later on Monday, the newspaper Izvestia carried a statement from the state penitentiary service saying Navalny was moved to the prison colony's sanitary unit after a checkup found him having "signs of a respiratory illness, including a high fever." In an acerbic note, Navalny said he and other inmates studied a notice on tuberculosis prevention that underlined the importance of strengthening immunity with a balanced diet — advice that contrasted with a prison ration of "glue-like porridge and frozen potatoes." □

N. Ireland sees 3rd night of unrest amid post-Brexit tensions

LONDON (AP) — Police and politicians in Northern Ireland appealed for calm on Monday after a third night of violence that saw Protestant youths start fires and pelt officers with bricks and gasoline bombs. The flareups come amid rising tensions over post-Brexit trade rules for Northern Ireland and worsening relations between the parties in the Protestant-Catholic power-sharing Belfast government. The Police Service of Northern Ireland said officers were attacked in Londonderry on Sunday night, and there was also unrest in two pro-British unionist areas near Belfast. Police said most of those involved were teenagers. Chief Superintendent Darin Jones condemned the "senseless and reckless criminal behavior that (does) nothing but cause damage to the commu-

nity." The disturbances followed unrest Friday and Saturday in unionist areas in and around Belfast and Londonderry, also known as Derry, that saw cars set on fire and projectiles and gasoline bombs hurled at police officers. Police said 27 officers were injured, and eight people have been charged, the youngest a boy of 13. Britain's economic split from the European Union at the end of 2020 has shaken the delicate political balance in Northern Ireland, a part of the U.K. where some people identify as British and some as Irish. A new U.K.-EU trade deal has imposed customs and border checks on some goods moving between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K. The arrangement was designed to avoid checks between Northern Ireland and Ireland, an EU member, be-

cause an open Irish border has helped underpin the peace process built on the 1998 Good Friday accord. The accord ended decades of violence involving Irish republicans, British loyalists and U.K. armed forces in which more than 3,000 people died. But unionists say the new checks amount to a new border in the Irish Sea between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K. The Democratic Unionist Party, which jointly governs Northern Ireland with Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein, has called for the Brexit deal to be scrapped. Unionists are also angry at a police decision not to prosecute Sinn Fein politicians who attended the funeral of a former Irish Republican Army commander in June. The funeral of Bobby Storey drew a large crowd, despite coronavirus rules barring mass gatherings.



A car burns after it was hijacked by Loyalists at the Cloughfern roundabout in Newtownabbey, Belfast, Northern Ireland, Saturday, April 3, 2021.

Associated Press

The main unionist parties have demanded the resignation of Northern Ireland's police chief over the controversy, claiming he has lost the confidence of their community. Mark Lindsay, chairman of the Police Federation of Northern Ireland, said the

"political atmosphere" was being used as an excuse for violence, orchestrated by banned paramilitary groups. "Older, more sinister, elements use the youth and use children...to achieve their aims," Lindsay told BBC radio. □

Rescuers hampered by damaged roads, more rain in Indonesia

By **RICKO WAWO** and **NINIEK KARMINI**

Associated Press

LEMBATA, Indonesia (AP) —

Rescuers were hampered by damaged bridges and roads and a lack of heavy equipment Monday after torrential rains caused multiple disasters on remote eastern Indonesian islands as well as in East Timor.

At least 133 people died and dozens were missing in Indonesia, and 27 deaths were reported in East Timor. A tropical cyclone causing the damage is expected to continue affecting the Southeast Asian nations for days while moving south toward Australia.

Mud tumbled down from surrounding hills onto dozens of homes in Lamenele village shortly after midnight Sunday on Adonara island in East Nusa Tenggara province. Rescuers recovered 49 bodies and 28 people were seriously injured, East Nusa Tenggara Vice Governor Josef Nae Soi said at a joint news conference late Monday.

Flash floods killed at least 84 people elsewhere and 71 were still missing in the province, local leaders said at the virtual news conference. Severe flooding also was reported in Bima, a town in the neighboring province of West Nusa



In this image made from video, soldiers and police officers assist residents to cross a flooded road in Malaka Tengah, East Nusa Tenggara province, Indonesia, Monday, April 5, 2021.

Associated Press

Tenggara, killing two people and submerging nearly 10,000 houses.

Relief efforts were hampered by power outages, blocked roads covered in thick mud and debris, as well as the remoteness of the area on an island that can only be reached by sea which is now surrounded by high waves, said the agency's spokesperson, Raditya Jati.

Photos released by the agency showed rescuers taking residents to shelters. The bodies of 13 people

were recovered after being swept away by floods in Alor district, where dozens of houses were destroyed, Soi said. Hundreds of people fled their submerged homes, some of which were swept away by the floodwaters.

In another district, Ende, two people were killed after overnight rains caused rivers to burst their banks, sending muddy water into large areas of East Flores district, Soi said.

The rains also caused solidified lava to tumble down

the slopes of Ili Lewotolok volcano and hit several villages. That disaster on Lembata island killed at least 67 people buried under tons of solid lava, Lembata district chief Eliaser Yentji Sunur said at the same news conference. The lava was left after the volcano erupted in November.

Hundreds of people were involved in the rescue efforts on Monday. Ten districts and the provincial capital of Kupang were affected by flash floods and a landslide that damaged

five bridges and several public facilities in East Nusa Tenggara province, Jati said.

He said more than 950 houses were damaged, including dozens that were flattened or swept away by floods and mud, forcing 2,655 people to flee to government shelters.

President Joko Widodo said he ordered his Cabinet ministers and the chiefs of the military, police and disaster agency to carry out emergency response measures as quickly as possible.

"I can feel the grief of our brothers and sisters there caused by these disasters," Widodo said in a televised address, offering deep condolences to the victims.

In East Timor, 13 people were killed in the capital, Dili, and at least 14 bodies were recovered elsewhere in the tiny nation as rains caused landslides and dams to overflow. "We are still searching for the areas impacted by the natural disasters" and the toll could rise, said Joaquim José Gusmão dos Reis Martins, the nation's secretary of state for civil protection.

East Timor President Francisco Guterres Lu Olo offered his condolences to the victims and asked government officials to coordinate the response. □

Hikers scramble as new fissure opens up at Icelandic volcano



The Lava flows from an eruption of a volcano on the Reykjanes Peninsula in southwestern Iceland on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

Associated Press

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) —

Steam and lava spurted Monday from a new fissure at an Icelandic volcano that began erupting

last month, prompting the evacuation of hundreds of hikers who had come to

see the spectacle.

The new fissure, first spotted by a sightseeing helicopter, was about 500 meters (550 yards) long and about a kilometer (around a half-mile) from the original eruption site in the Geldinga Valley.

The Icelandic Department of Emergency Management announced an immediate evacuation of the area. It said there was no imminent danger to life due to the site's distance from popular hiking paths. The Icelandic Meteorological Office said the new volcanic activity wasn't expected to affect traffic at nearby Keflavik Airport.

The long-dormant volcano on the Reykjanes Peninsula

in southwest Iceland flared to life March 20 after tens of thousands of earthquakes were recorded in the area in the past three weeks. It was the area's first volcanic eruption in nearly 800 years. The volcano's proximity to Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, about 32 kilometers (20 miles) away, has brought a steady stream of tourists to the area, even with the country in partial lockdown to combat the coronavirus. Around 30,000 people have visited the area since the eruption began, according to the Icelandic Tourist Board.

Live footage from the area showed small spouts of lava coming from the new fissure.

Geophysicist Magnus Gudmundsson said the volcanic eruption could be moving north from its original location.

"We now see less lava coming from the two original craters," he told The Associated Press. "This could be the beginning of second stage." Iceland, located above a volcanic hot spot in the North Atlantic, averages one volcanic eruption every four to five years. The last one was at Holuhraun in 2014, when a fissure eruption spread lava the size of Manhattan over the interior highland region.

In 2010, ash from Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano shut down much international air travel for several days. □

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A year after pandemic hit, Haiti awaits vaccines amid apathy

By **EVENS SANON and DÁNICA COTO**

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Haiti does not have a single vaccine to offer its more than 11 million people over a year after the pandemic began, raising concerns among health experts that the well-being of Haitians is being pushed aside as violence and political instability across the country deepen.

So far, Haiti is slated to receive only 756,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine through a United Nations program aimed at ensuring the neediest countries get COVID-19 shots. The free doses were scheduled to arrive in May at the latest, but delays are expected because Haiti missed a deadline and the key Indian manufacturer is now prioritizing an increase in domestic demand.

"Haiti has only recently completed some of the essential documentation that are prerequisites for processing of a shipping order," said Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a Geneva-based public-private partnership that is co-managing the U.N.-backed COVAX effort. The country also didn't apply for a pilot program in which it would have received some of its allotted doses early, according to the Pan American Health Organization. However, a spokeswoman commended its other pandemic efforts, including reinforcing hospital preparedness.

Meanwhile, a human rights research center cited in a new U.S. State Department report found Haiti's government misappropriated more than \$1 million worth of coronavirus aid. The report also accused government officials of spending \$34 million in the "great-

est opacity," bypassing an agency charged with approving state contracts.

Lauré Adrien, general director of Haiti's Health Ministry, blamed the vaccine delay on scrutiny of the AstraZeneca shots and concerns that the country lacks the necessary infrastructure to ensure proper vaccine storage, adding that his agency prefers a single-dose vaccine. AstraZeneca requires two doses. "It's no secret that we don't have excellent conservation facilities," he said. "We wanted to be sure that we had all the parameters under control before we received vaccine stocks."

Adrien also noted all the money his agency received has been properly spent, but said he could not speak for other agencies. A presidential spokesman did not return calls for comment.

Many poorer countries have experienced long waits in getting COVAX vaccines as richer countries snapped up supplies, though most have received at least an initial shipment. Some took matters into their own hands, securing shots through donations and private deals. Haiti's lack of vaccines comes as it reports more than 12,700 cases and 250 deaths, numbers that experts believe are underreported.

Perceptions also remain a big challenge.

While face masks remain mandatory at Haiti businesses, airport closures and curfews have long since been lifted, and other precautions are rare.

"People don't really believe in the coronavirus," said Esther Racine, a 26-year-old mother of two boys whose father died in the catastrophic 2010 earthquake.



Health ministry workers check the temperature of mask-wearing fans as a precaution against the spread of the new coronavirus, before entering the stadium prior to the start of the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying soccer match between Haiti and Belize in Port-au-prince, Haiti, Thursday, March 25, 2021.

Associated Press

Racine once worked as a maid but began selling face masks at the beginning of the pandemic, making brisk business with some 800 sales a month. Now, she barely sells 200.

"Look around," she said, waving at a maskless crowd bustling around her in downtown Port-au-Prince. The only customers nowadays are those who need a mask to enter a nearby grocery store, she said, adding that Haitians have other problems on their mind: "People worry more about violence than the virus."

Ongoing protests and a spike in kidnappings and gang-related killings have some wondering how any vaccine will be administered given the lack of stability coupled with a growing number of people afraid to leave their homes. Many also fear being inoculated, despite educational campaigns. In addition, some officials have raised concern about the AstraZeneca vaccine, which has recently come under scrutiny in Europe after a very small number of people who received it developed unusual blood clots.

one wanted to be vaccinated," Adrien said.

Among those in Haiti who say they will not be vaccinated is Dorcelus Perkin, a brick factory owner. On a recent morning, the 60-year-old supervised more than a dozen employees working outdoors. No one was wearing any personal protective equipment. "We can't wear masks in the sun. We would be suffocating," he said, adding that the sun kills the virus, something scientists have not proven.

Perkin also credited drinking a traditional green tea mixed with salt every day for his good health: "I believe more in these remedies than the vaccines. I don't know what's in the inside of these vaccines." □

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Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance to Launch New Website

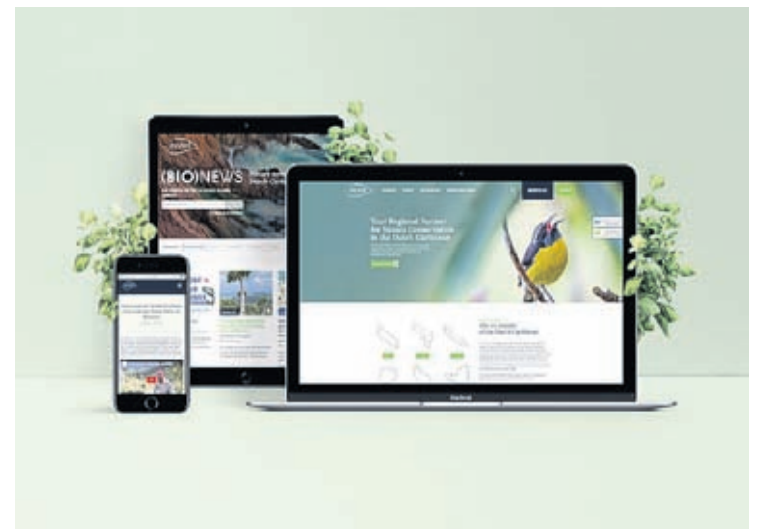
Featuring Nature Related Conservation Projects, News, Science, Legislation and Education for All Six Islands of the Dutch Caribbean

KRALENDIJK, BONAIRE - The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) has launched its brand-new website. In a press statement released by the non-profit nature conservation network created to safeguard nature in the Dutch Caribbean, DCNA gave various highlights on how its new website will facilitate information exchange not only between the members of the nature conservation network but also to the general public.

In a departure from the previous website, the new website will feature various interactive information portals which will make information exchange on nature conser-

vation, management, research, monitoring and educational projects within the Dutch Caribbean much more accessible. Interactive news platform

On the new website readers you can find the latest nature news with a focus on research and monitoring projects coming out of the Dutch Caribbean through a fully interactive news platform named (Bio) News (<https://dcnanature.org/news/>), also optimized for viewing on mobile platforms. While the website in itself will be in English the various nature news items will be translated into Papiamentu, Papiamentu and Dutch and available on the website. BioNews is kindly supported by



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An interactive overview of active research and monitoring projects in the Dutch Caribbean will also be featured and readers will be able to learn about the members of the DCNA Network and the DCNA Secretariat. An overview of the various Nature and Conservation legislation and educational projects for all six islands of the Dutch Caribbean will also be accessible. Visitors to the site can also access nature and conservation data through the linking of regional databases, including from the Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database (DCBD), and links to websites from DCNA members and partners. Documents specific to DCNA such as the Management Success Reports for the Protected Area Management Organizations for all six islands can also be found in addi-

tion to ways in which residents and tourists can be involved in conservation on their respective islands through job vacancies, volunteering, recording nature sightings and potential partnerships.

"I would especially like to thank the contractors; Bram Perry, Deviate Design, and Coastal Dynamics, for their help in developing the website as well as the contributors to the DCNA Photobank which helped us showcase the Dutch Caribbean's beautiful nature on our new website. We hope you will enjoy the new website and learn more about nature conservation in the Dutch Caribbean" commented Tineke van Bussel, DCNA Research and Communications Officer and project lead for the new website development. The new DCNA Website www.dcnanature.org, has been made possible through the continued support of the Dutch Postcode Lottery. □

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Easter Edition

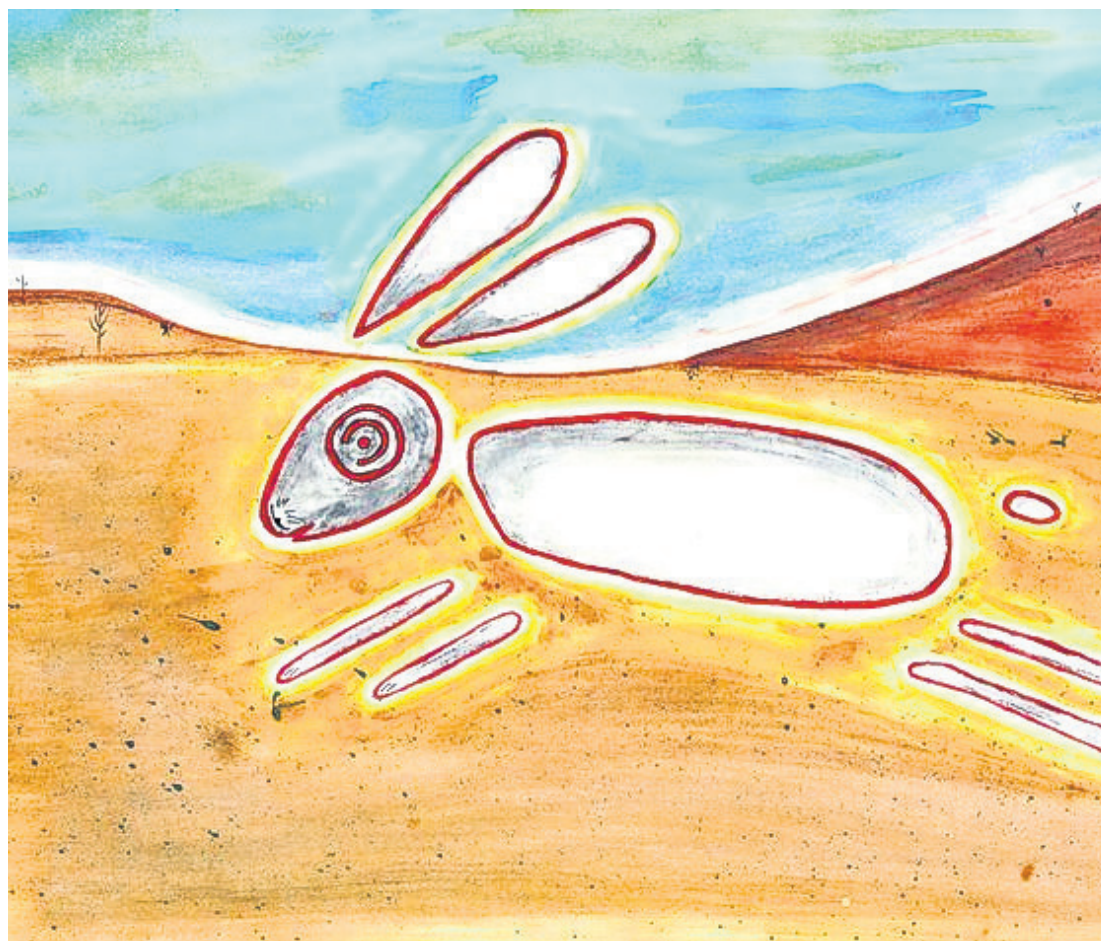
Episode XCIX - 99

NOORD - Nowadays, Easter is a business event and a religious holiday, marked by high sales of greeting cards and crafts, candy, chocolate eggs, and chocolate Easter bunnies among other gifts.

Rabbits are, in many cultures, known as keen breeders, so the arrival of baby bunnies in spring meadows was associated with birth and renewal. The exact origin of the Easter Bunny tradition is unknown, although some historians believe it arrived in America with German immigrants in the 1700's. It's believed that eggs represented fertility and birth in certain pagan traditions that predates Christianity. Egg decorating may have become part of the Easter celebration in a nod to the religious significance of Easter, i.e., Jesus' resurrection or rebirth.

While some historians hold that Easter is derived from albis, a Latin phrase that is pure for 'alba' or 'dawn' that became eostarum in old German, a precursor to the English language of today. St. Bede author of "Ecclesiastical History of the English People" maintains that the English word 'Easter' comes from Eostrae who was the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility.

Despite its significance as a Christian holy day, many of the traditions and symbols that play a key role in Easter observances actually have roots in pagan celebrations—particularly the pagan goddess Eostre. While in the Jewish religion the holiday of Passover or Pesach is celebrating exactly this that G have save the Hebrews from Farao giving them all



the gift of freedom and a land of milk and honey. Several Protestant Christian denominations, including Lutherans and Quakers, have opted to formally abandon many Easter traditions, deeming them too pagan.

Easter foods are steeped in symbolism. An Easter dinner of lamb also has historical roots, since a lamb was often used as a sacrificial animal in Jewish traditions, and lamb is frequently served during Passover. The phrase "lamb of God" is sometimes used to refer to Jesus and the sacrificial nature of his death.

Notably, Easter is also associated with the Jewish holiday of Passover, as well as the exodus of the Jews from Egypt, as described in the Old Testament. These links are clearly seen in the Last Supper, which occurred the night before Jesus' arrest and the sufferings Jesus endured following his arrest. □

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The high price of money shame

By **LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

The U.S. suicide rate has risen dramatically in recent years, and certified money coach Tammy Lally of Washington, D.C., is convinced money shame is a contributing factor.

Lally's brother died by suicide in 2007 after receiving a foreclosure notice. Shortly afterward, Lally's mortgage business collapsed in the Great Recession. She says she went from driving a Mercedes and living in an oceanfront house to filing for bankruptcy.

"It blew me away, the level of pain and sadness that I was experiencing," Lally says. "I didn't tell anybody. I was pretending like nothing was going on."

She eventually realized she was experiencing shame — a deep sense that she was fundamentally flawed and unworthy because of her financial problems. When she switched careers to become a financial advisor, she began to notice how pervasive those feelings were. Some clients were ashamed of their debts, or their wealth. Others lived beyond their means or "played the big shot," picking up the tab at restaurants or constantly rescuing others.

"I'm seeing every one of my clients having shame around their money," she says. "We live in a culture where our money is our worth."

THE ORIGINS OF MONEY SHAME

We aren't born knowing how to manage money, and everyone makes mistakes with their finances, says Lindsay Bryan-Podvin, a financial therapist in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Plus, there are many factors beyond our control, such as the economy, industry trends and unemployment rates.

Too often, though, people feel there's something deeply wrong with them if they struggle with their finances. They may feel they're stupid, immoral, lazy or "bad with money," or ruminate on what they should have done differently.

"When we make mistakes with money or things happen to us, we tend to internalize it and make it really personal," says Bryan-Podvin, author of "The Financial Anxiety Solution." "If you're beating yourself up, that's a good sign that there is money shame."

Money shame can lead us to overspend to "keep up with the Joneses," avoid our finances or criticize others who are struggling, says certified financial planner Edward Coombs, a marriage and family therapist in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"Shame induces us to be judgmental," Coombs says. "Because when we see other people struggling with something, it creates discomfort for us."

Many therapists and re-

searchers say that shame differs from guilt: We feel guilt when we've done something bad, but feel shame when we believe we are bad or deeply flawed. People may believe they're so defective that they are unworthy of ever being loved or connected to others, Coombs says. In extreme cases, that could lead to thoughts of suicide.

"Shame really is about loss of relationship," Coombs says. "It's communicating to you that I'm not worthy or valuable of being in relationship either with myself or with another person."

SHAME AND SUICIDE

Suicides rarely have a single cause, and researchers can only speculate about why the suicide rate rises and falls. Studies show that suicides tend to rise with the unemployment rate, and a 2020 study for the American Journal of Epidemiology found that financial strain is a significant risk factor for suicide attempts. But in the past couple of decades, suicide rates have increased in good economic times and bad. The suicide rate rose 35% from 1999 through 2018, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, before dropping in 2019 from 14.2 suicides per 100,000 people to 13.9. Statistics for 2020 are not yet available.

Lindsay speculates that income stagnation and in-



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com. NerdWallet via Associated Press

creased economic insecurity could be contributing factors. Coombs notes that the suicide rate for men in the U.S. is more than three times higher than that for women, which could be in part due to internal pressure to be "providers and performers."

"Men struggle more with their mental health (after financial setbacks), because they tend to associate their self-worth to their income or their net worth," Coombs says.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT MONEY SHAME

All this is scary stuff. But suicide is preventable (the National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 800-273-8255), and money shame can be tamed, financial therapists say. The first step is acknowledging what you're feeling. "The first and most pragmatic piece is being able to name it," Coombs says. "Having language to describe experiences does help to start to alleviate the distress." □

Facebook data on more than 500M accounts found online

NEW YORK (AP) — Details from more than 500 million Facebook users have been found available on a website for hackers.

The information appears to be several years old, but it is another example of the vast amount of information collected by Facebook and other social media sites, and the limits to how secure that information is. The availability of the data set was first reported by Business Insider. According to that publication, it has information from 106

countries including phone numbers, Facebook IDs, full names, locations, birthdates, and email addresses. Facebook has been grappling with data security issues for years. In 2018, the social media giant disabled a feature that allowed users to search for one another via phone number following revelations that the political firm Cambridge Analytica had accessed information on up to 87 million Facebook users without their knowledge or consent.



This March 25, 2018 file photo shows a full page advertisement in The New York Times displayed in New York.

Associated Press

In December 2019, a Ukrainian security researcher reported finding a database with the names, phone numbers and unique user IDs of more than 267 million Facebook users — nearly all U.S.-based — on the open internet. It is unclear if the current data dump is related to this database.

"This is old data that was previously reported on in 2019," the Menlo Park, California-based company said in a statement. "We found and fixed this issue in August 2019." □

Births among endangered right whales highest since 2015



This Jan. 19, 2021 photo provided by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources shows a North Atlantic right whale mother and calf in waters near Wassaw Island, Ga.

By **RUSS BYNUM**

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — North Atlantic right whales gave birth over the winter in greater numbers than scientists have seen since 2015, an encouraging sign for researchers who became alarmed three years ago when the critically endangered species produced no known offspring at all.

Survey teams spotted 17 newborn right whale calves swimming with their mothers offshore between Florida and North Carolina from December through March. One of those calves soon died after being hit by a boat, a reminder of the high death rate for right whales that experts fear is outpacing births.

The overall calf count equals the combined total for the previous three

years. That includes the dismal 2018 calving season, when scientists saw zero right whale births for the first time in three decades. Still, researchers say greater numbers are needed in the coming years for North Atlantic right whales to rebound from an estimated population that's dwindled to about 360.

"What we are seeing is what we hope will be the beginning of an upward climb in calving that's going to continue for the next few years," said Clay George, a wildlife biologist who oversees right whale surveys for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. "They need to be producing about two dozen calves per year for the population to stabilize and continue to grow again."

Right whales migrate each

winter to the warmer Atlantic waters off the Southeastern U.S. to give birth. Trained spotters fly over the coastline almost daily during the calving season, scanning the water for mothers with newborns.

Survey flights over Georgia and Florida ended Wednesday on the last day of March, typically the season's end. Spotters will monitor waters off the Carolinas through April 15, hoping to pick up any overlooked newborns as the whales head north to their feeding grounds.

This season's calf count matches the 17 births recorded in 2015. Right whale experts consider that number fairly average, considering the record is 39 births confirmed in 2009.

Scientists suspect a calving slump in recent years may

have been caused by a shortage of zooplankton to feed right whales in the Gulf of Maine and the Bay of Fundy off Nova Scotia. They say the uptick in births this season could be a result of whales being healthier after shifting to waters with more abundant food sources.

"It's a somewhat hopeful sign that they are starting to adjust to this new regime where females are in good enough condition to give birth," said Philip Hamilton, a right whale researcher at the New England Aquarium in Boston.

Regardless, conservationists worry that right whales are dying — largely from manmade causes — at a faster rate than they can reproduce.

Since 2017, scientists have confirmed 34 right whale deaths in waters of the U.S. and Canada — with the leading causes being entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with boats and ships. Considering additional whales were documented in the same period with serious injuries they were unlikely to survive, researchers fear the real

death toll could be at least 49.

That would exceed the 39 right whale births recorded since 2017.

"If we reduced or eliminated the human-caused death rate, their birth rate would be fine," Hamilton said. "The onus should not be on them to reproduce at a rate that can sustain the rate at which we kill them. The onus should be in us to stop killing."

The federal government is expected to finalize new rules soon aimed at decreasing the number of right whales tangled up in fishing gear used to catch lobster and crabs in the Northeast. Proposals to reduce vertical fishing lines in the water and modify seasonal restricted areas have been met with heated debate. Fishermen say the proposed rules could put them out of businesses, while conservation groups insist they aren't strict enough.

The National Marine Fisheries Service received more than 170,000 public comments on the proposed rules after a report was issued Dec. 31, said agency spokeswoman Allison Garrett. She said final rules should be published this summer.

Garrett said the fisheries service is also considering adjustments to federal rules that since 2008 have imposed speed limits on larger vessels in certain Atlantic waters during seasonal periods when right whales are frequently seen. An agency report in January found mariners' compliance with the speed rules have improved overall, but still lagged below 25% for large commercial vessels at four ports in the Southeast.

"We've long known from the survival estimates that more right whales are dying than those we see," said George, the whale survey coordinator for Georgia. "They need to be producing a lot more calves. But the big issue is we've got to significantly reduce the number than are being entangled in fishing ropes and struck by boats." □





This undated photo provided by Arnold Ventures shows Laura and John Arnold.

Associated Press

By HALELUYA HADERO
AP Business Writer

Billionaire philanthropists John and Laura Arnold have committed to donate 5% of their wealth annually as part of an effort to encourage increased, timelier donations to charities.

The Arnolds, who live in Houston, are the first billionaires to sign on to the advocacy organization Global Citizen's "Give While You Live" campaign, which calls on the world's billionaires to give at least 5% of their wealth every year to a cause. The Arnolds' pledge Monday came as part of an alliance between Global Citizen and the Arnold-led Initiative to Accelerate Charitable Giving — a coalition of donors, experts and nonprofits who want Congress to raise giving requirements.

By agreeing to give 5%, the Arnolds are voluntarily subjecting their assets to the same minimum payment standard private foundations must donate annually to maintain their tax-exempt status. But there's been an ongoing debate during the coronavirus pandemic on whether foundations and donor advised funds — similar to charitable investment accounts — should be required to give more because of increased needs.

"Right now, many charities are in danger of not surviving the pandemic. Yet, more than \$1 trillion promised to them remains warehoused in tax-free investment accounts," John Arnold, the former hedge fund executive turned philanthropist, said in the an-

nouncement. "America's charities cannot afford to wait for some larger crisis to arise. Business as usual is simply not good enough." Donor-advised funds aren't required to make donations in any given year -- a

Billionaires John, Laura Arnold to give 5% of wealth yearly

hot-button issue in philanthropy since donors are able to take immediate tax deductions before charities get any of the money. The Initiative to Accelerate Charitable Giving has been calling for these assets to be donated within 15 years. But this, and its other calls for reforming tax benefits for donors, have gotten pushback from groups opposing more government involvement in giving.

"Some donor-advised funds, emulating the Arnolds' example, are committed to timely and ongoing distribution of their

resources. □

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By Dave Green

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Vast archives at JFK Library help bring 'Hemingway' to life

By MARK PRATT
Associated Press
BOSTON (AP) — A new documentary on Ernest Hemingway — powered by vast but little-known archives kept at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston — is shedding new light on the acclaimed novelist. "Hemingway," by longtime collaborators Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, premiering on PBS on three consecutive nights starting April 5, takes a more nuanced look at the author and his longstanding reputation as an alcoholic, adventurer, outdoorsman and bullfight-loving misogynist who struggled with internal turmoil that eventually led to his death by suicide at age 61.

The truth about the man many consider America's greatest 20th-century novelist — whose concise writing style made him an outsized celebrity who became a symbol of unrepentant American masculinity — is much more complex, Novick said. "We hope this film opens up opportunities to look at Hemingway in different ways," said Novick, who has co-created several other documentaries with Burns including "The Vietnam War" and "Prohibition." "There is a complexity beneath the surface." That complexity would



In this July 1934 photo provided by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation from the Ernest Hemingway Collection, Ernest Hemingway poses with a marlin at Havana Harbor, in Key West, Fla.

Associated Press

have been nearly impossible to detail without the largest-in-the-world Hemingway collection that ended up at the JFK Library, thanks to Hemingway's and Kennedy's widows. Although the two men never met, they admired each other and corresponded briefly. Hemingway was even invited to Kennedy's inauguration but couldn't make it because of illness, said Hilary Justice, the Hemingway scholar in residence at the library.

When Hemingway's fourth wife, Mary Hemingway, was figuring out what to do with her late husband's effects, she asked Jackie Kennedy if they could be housed at the JFK Library. The archives contain Hemingway's manuscripts — including "The Sun Also Rises" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls" — personal correspondence and about 11,000 photographs. Much of the material used in the documentary has not been widely seen in public,

if at all, Novick said. Burns had been to the JFK Library on multiple occasions for several functions, but had no idea about the extent of the Hemingway archives until they started researching the film, which has been in the works for years. "The Hemingway collection was central to the process," Burns said. "It helped us understand just what a disciplined writer he was." Much of the documentary deals with Hemingway's

complicated relationship with the women in his life, from his mother and sisters to the nurse he fell love with while recovering from wounds suffered in World War I to his four wives. "So much of what he did in life was about love: running to it, running from it and ruining it," Burns said. While considered the archetype of American manhood, the truth about Hemingway's masculinity was more complex, the filmmakers found. As a child, Hemingway's mother treated him and one of his sisters as twins, often dressing them in identical outfits, sometimes as boys, sometimes as girls. He explored gender fluidity both in his books and in life, letting his hair grow as his wives cropped theirs short. "We wanted to push back against this idea that Hemingway didn't like women," Novick said. Novick's favorite part of the collection were Hemingway's manuscripts, many handwritten on store-bought notebooks. They show in great detail his thinking process as he wrote, re-wrote, amended and edited his works through cross-outs, scribbles and notes in the margins. Hemingway, for example, wrote dozens of endings to "A Farewell to Arms" — as many as 47, according to one count. □

Hulu to produce, release '1619 Project' documentary series



In this combination photo, Oprah Winfrey poses for photographers at the premiere of the film "A Wrinkle In Time" in London on March 13, 2018, left, and cover art for a special issue of The New York Times Magazine's "The 1619 Project."

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hulu will produce a documentary

series based on "The 1619 Project," stories in The New York Times that examined the legacy of slavery in America dating from the arrival of the first slave ship from Africa. Roger Ross Williams, an Academy Award-winning director for his film "Music by Prudence," will oversee and produce the series, it was announced Thursday. The announcement was an outgrowth of a deal announced last summer by the Times, Lionsgate and Oprah Winfrey to develop "The 1619 Project" into a portfolio of films, television

series and other content. They will also be producers, along with Williams' business partner, Geoff Martz. The Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper series, from writer Nikole Hannah-Jones, began appearing on the 400th anniversary of ship's arrival in the then-British colony of Virginia. "'The 1619 Project' is an essential reframing of American history," Williams said. "Our most cherished ideals and achievements cannot be understood without acknowledging both systemic racism and the contributions of Black Americans.

And this isn't just about the past — Black people are still fighting against both the legacy of this racism and its current incarnation." The streaming service gave no indication of when the documentary series will appear. □

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Augusta National now a 10-day celebration at home of Masters

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — A stream of people young and older walked on a path along the driving range at Augusta National, most of them carrying bags from the golf shop, some of them taking home a prized trophy.

To their right was Bryson DeChambeau and Phil Mickelson, smashing drivers into the horizon, one fueled by protein shakes and the other by his own brand of coffee.

More surprising was a Brooks Koepka sighting, considering he had surgery less than three weeks ago. More than the first major of the year, Augusta has become a 10-day celebration at the home of the Masters. It started with 82 of the best women amateurs from around the world, practicing on Friday and then competing on Saturday in the Augusta National Women's Amateur.

On Sunday, the practice area and 18th green was buzzing with 80 kids from 30 states, Canada and France, ages 7 to 17 in the Drive, Chip and Putt national finals. Sam Udovich of Minnesota won the his age division (Boys 12-13), which he thought was pretty cool. Sweeter yet was Justin Thomas coming over to give him props.

"He just came over and said, 'Hey, great job, congratulations.' He was going to tee off in like two minutes, so it was great for him to say congratulations," Udovich said.

Next to the first tee, one man had one hand on a merchandise bag and the other on his son's shoulder as they watched Brendon Todd and Brian Harman rip tee shots.

"Save that bounce for the tournament," Todd said to his fellow Georgia Bulldog. By late afternoon, the focus shifted to the 88 players in the Masters and their pursuit of a green jacket. Thomas, the No. 2 player in the world who captured The Players Championship three weeks ago, is among the favorites. So is

Jon Rahm, now with nothing but winning on his mind after his wife gave birth to their first child on Friday.

Dustin Johnson is the defending champion of a Masters that either feels like a long time ago or like yesterday. By the calendar, he won 140 days ago on Nov. 15, the first autumn Masters because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the colors of azaleas that were popping with colors, it can feel like November never happened.

"Now this looks like Augusta," Match Play winner Billy Horschel said when he teed off.

Rory McIlroy, in pursuit of an elusive green jacket he needs to complete the career Grand Slam, was on the putting green. Mickel-



Finn Burkholder, The Woodlands, Texas, gives a big fist pump reacting to sinking his putt on the 18th green during the Drive, Chip, and Putt Championship at Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday, April 4, 2021, Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

son played alone.

Also arriving in Augusta

on Sunday was Koepka, the four-time major champion who plans to play this week. Koepka is not even three weeks removed from having surgery on his right knee from a dislocated knee cap and some ligament damage from a fall he took.

He missed the Honda Classic, The Players Championship and the Dell Match Play during some serious rehabilitation in California. Even without playing a tournament since a runner-up finish in the World Golf Championship in Florida, it wasn't a dull March. He got engaged to Jenna Sims.

DeChambeau, meanwhile, had to do some math on the first tee, which is not unusual, except for these circumstances. □

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When will next generation of tennis overtake the Big Three?

By **STEVEN WINE**
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The next generation of men's tennis remains a jumble of unrealized potential.

With Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer skipping the Miami Open, the tournament was expected to bring the game's new faces into sharper focus. Instead, the outlook remains fuzzy as the clay season begins.

Sunday's match between No. 37-ranked Hubert Hurkacz and No. 31 Jannik Sinner was the first ATP Masters 1000 final since 2003 with two players ranked outside the top 30. Hurkacz became the lowest-ranked champion in the ATP's top-level series since 2005.

Meanwhile, for players touted as future Grand Slam champions, Miami represented an opportunity missed. Daniil Medvedev, Stefanos Tsitsipas and



Daniil Medvedev, of Russia throws his already broken racket after losing a game late in the first set to Roberto Bautista Agut, of Spain, during the Miami Open tennis tournament Wednesday March 31, 2021, in Miami Gardens, Fla. Bautista Agut won 6-4, 6-2.

Associated Press

Alexander Zverev failed to make it even to the semifinals.

"With the Big Three absent, I think all the NextGen guys were trying their best to

play their best game, to compete as hard as they can," Hurkacz said. "Hopefully the spectators enjoyed it."

But what should fans make

of it? Twenty-somethings have been trying to overtake the Big Three for years, and no front-runner for 2021 emerged in Miami.

Medvedev, seeded No. 1 at a Masters 1000 event for the first time, was upset in the fourth round by Roberto Bautista Agut. No. 2 Tsitsipas exited in the same round with a loss to Hurkacz.

"I felt like it was my opportunity," Tsitsipas said. "There was more space for me to show something greater."

No. 3 Zverev flopped worst of all, double-faulting three times on break point in a loss to No. 83-ranked Emil Ruusuvuori. No. 4 Andrey Rublev, a Russian who leads the tour with 20 wins this year, reached the semifinals before Hurkacz upset him.

This all came after Nadal and Federer withdrew before the tournament started due to injuries, while

Djokovic decided to stay home in Serbia amid the pandemic.

For Hurkacz, 24, the title is by far the biggest of his career, and the first for a Polish player in a Masters 1000 event. But he won't be among the favorites at the French Open.

In sum, no 20-something appears poised to wrest the mantle from the 30-somethings who have dominated the sport for so long. Dominic Thiem won his first major title at the U.S. Open in September, but he is just 5-4 this year and skipped Miami.

"The next generation still has to show they can beat the Big Three," Sinner said. "The next generation is not ready yet to win against them consistently. At some point there will be the moment; I don't know when. It can be two years or five years, I don't know. But the moment will come." □

U.S. Soccer, MLS and NWSL to test concussion substitutes



United States midfielder Kellyn Acosta (10) and Trinidad and Tobago midfielder Andre Fortune (8) battle for a header during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in Orlando, Fla., in this Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**
AP Sports Writer

U.S. Soccer, Major League Soccer and the National Women's Soccer League are joining a trial program

that will allow teams two additional substitutes for suspected concussions in each match.

The International Football Association Board, which

sets the rules for the game, approved the trial for concussion substitutes last December. It is expected to run through August 2022.

U.S. Soccer is working with the top men's and women's leagues, as well as the United Soccer League and the National Independent Soccer Association, to implement the pilot program protocol across the sport in the United States.

"We do think it's incredibly important for players and player safety, and it speaks to our role of being a leader in this area and prioritizing health and safety above really anything else that we do as a league," said Jeff Agoos, vice president of competition for MLS.

Starting this season, teams

can make two substitutions for suspected concussions. That's in addition to the five substitutions already allowed because of the coronavirus. Normally teams are allowed three total substitutions.

Concussion substitutes can be made even if a player has returned to the field to play. If teams sub out a player because of concussion, the opposing team gets an additional sub — addressing competitive balance concerns.

"It was critical to come together as a sport with our professional leagues and proceed in this pilot program, prioritizing the well-being of our players above all," Dr. George Chiampas, U.S. Soccer's chief medi-

cal officer, said in a statement. "We've worked hard to raise awareness of head injuries in soccer over the last several years, and this change should go a long way in protecting players suspected of suffering a concussion."

The concussion rule was in force during the She-Beleives Cup in February. FIFA is considering whether it will be used at the Tokyo Olympics this summer.

The English Premier League has allowed use of concussion substitutes since early February. West Ham United's Issa Diop became the first player subbed out because of a suspected concussion in an FA Cup match against Manchester United on Feb. 9. □